

February 18, 2005

Carl Woolfolk
Mail Station 4915
P.O. Box 355
Fruitland, NM 87416-0355

Dear Mr. Woolfolk:

The purpose of this letter is to document the Department of Fish and Wildlife's position in terms of important fish species present in Morgan Lake.

The important sport fish species in Morgan Lake are largemouth bass, green sunfish and channel catfish. The important prey species in Morgan Lake is green sunfish and recent surveys indicate that the sunfish population is down.

There are several species of fish that have been accidentally introduced into the lake and are considered a nuisance due to the fact that they have a negative impact on Management of game fish and prey species in Morgan Lake. In addition, these species would have a negative impact to native fish species, including threatened and endangered fish species, that exist in the San Juan River, if Morgan Lake becomes a source of introduction of these exotic species into the San Juan River. These include the Pacu, *Plecostomus* sp., gizzard shad, mosquito fish and common carp. It is suspected that gizzard shad have been introduced into the San Juan River by way of Morgan Lake and have made it down to Lake Powel. Also, it is likely that the San Juan River has been the source of introduction of the common carp into Morgan Lake.

The department has limited survey information for the lake, and is currently awaiting a report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from a survey that was conducted last November. We are also planning to do a follow up survey during March. Recent surveys have failed to identify any native fish species being present in the lake. Several other species have not been identified as still being present in the lake, although they had been introduced into the lake during the 1960's. These species include the threadfin shad, rainbow trout, fathead minnow, Tilapia, black bullheads and northern pike.

The Department recommends that Largemouth bass, channel catfish and green sunfish be the species that are investigated during the impingement study.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (928) 871-7068.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cole, Wildlife Manager
Department of Fish and Wildlife

CONCURRENCE

Gloria M. Tom, Director
Department of Fish and Wildlife